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## NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

### *Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present to you my report for the year 1937 on the health conditions of your district during that period.

#### STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	26,088
Resident population (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	4,956
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,425
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£11,258
Amount represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£51/15/6

The inhabitants are almost entirely occupied in land work—this applies to both men and women.

	Total	M	F	
Live Births { Legitimate	60	29	31	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 12.51
{ Illegitimate	2	1	1	
Still Births	5	0	5	} Rate per 1,000 births: 74.63
Deaths	68	35	33	
				} Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 13.72.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—2.

	Total	
Deaths, all other Infants under one year	3	} Rate per 1,000 live births: 48.39

Legitimate Infants—2.  
Illegitimate Infants—1.

The causes of death were:

Heart and circulatory disease	12
Cancer	8
Pneumonia	3
Bronchitis	1
Senility	8
Nephritis	1
Cerebral Hemorrhage	6
Digestive diseases	4
Violence—other than suicide	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4
Premature Birth	3
Puerperal diseases	2
Diabetes	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1
Influenza	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	1
Other defined causes	6

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

##### (i) Public Health Officers—

Medical Officer of Health { CECIL THOMAS,  
Medical Officer of the Infirmary { M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
Sanitary Inspector—K. H. LYNAS, A.R.S.I.

##### (ii) Nursing in the Home.

The entire district has the services of Trained Nurses, under the control of local Associations. The Nurses are qualified Midwives and attend every confinement.



**(iii) Hospitals—**

Voluntary subscriptions enable patients to obtain treatment at Cambridge and Peterborough Hospitals. The Doddington Infirmary is available for medical cases.

**(iv) Ambulance Facilities—**

These are obtained from Chatteris and Whittlesey.

**(v) Tuberculosis—**

A Clinic for Tuberculosis is held in March under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health.

**(vi) Child Welfare—**

A Clinic is now held once a month in Doddington. It is supported entirely by voluntary contributions and is under my care.

**SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

**(i) Water.**

Benwick is still without a piped supply. Wimblington and Doddington have been served satisfactorily both as regards quantity and quality, but the pressure at Manea has been very poor generally, with the consequence that it has been impossible to draw water during the day in many parts of that village.

**(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.**

These systems have again proved generally efficient, while some improvements in sewage disposal have been effected, and proved of value.

**(iii) Closet Accommodation.**

Progress is still being made in the provision of Water Closets for Pail Closets, etc., where sufficient water supply and sewerage are available. Great improvement was effected at Manea Council Schools, where the water carriage system displaced the existing pail closets.

**(iv) Public Cleansing.**

The roads are kept in a clean and orderly condition by the County Council.

The collection and disposal of nightsoil and indestructible dry house refuse is done by contract with the District Council. The refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping, and the nightsoil by being deposited in trenches on isolated land and covered at intervals.

**(v) Sanitary Inspection.**

This is regularly and systematically carried out.

(a) Number of Inspections ... ..	2849
(b) Number of Notices Served (Informal) ... ..	39
(c) Number of satisfactory results (at present) ... ..	37

**(vi) The Infirmary Mortuary is available when required.**

**(vii) There is no smoke nuisance in the area.**

**HOUSING.**

**Inspection of Dwelling Houses—**

1. (a) Total number inspected for Defects ... ..	152
(b) Number of Inspections for the purpose ... ..	227
2. (a) Number of Dwelling Houses inspected and recorded under Housing (Consol. Regs.) 1925 ... ..	13
(b) Number of Inspections for the purpose ... ..	25
3. Number of Dwelling Houses found to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	2
4. (a) Number of Dwelling Houses found not in all respects to be fit ... ..	33
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose ... ..	80
(c) Remedy of defects without service of formal notice ... ..	28
5. Fifteen new Houses were erected or in course of construction during the year.	



Abatement of Overcrowding—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—

- (a) Number of Houses inspected ... .. 15
- (b) Total number of Houses overcrowded at survey ... .. 38
- (c) Total number of Houses overcrowded at end of 1937 ... .. 14
- (d) Number of families dwelling therein ... .. 14
- (e) No new cases were reported.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Efforts have been made during the year to improve the standard of cleanliness in milk production by the enforcement of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders, and many notices have ben complied with in that respect.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

The Sanitary Inspector regularly visits places used for the sale, storage or preparation of food, and inspects animals, and carcases killed in the slaughterhouses. Approximately 10 cwts. of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption, and destroyed.

(c) Adulteration, and Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

These are carried out by the County Council’s Examiner.

Samples of Graded Milk for bacteriological examination are taken by the Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The notified diseases during the year (other than Tuberculosis) were:

	Total Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	2	0	0
Pneumonia .. .. .	14	0	3
Diphtheria .. .. .	2	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males.	5	1	2	0
Females.	4	1	2	0

No evidence is available showing that notification of Tuberculosis is not carried out.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.O.H.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE  
YEAR 1937 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF NORTH WITCHFORD.

On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1931, in connection with  
**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.**

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.  
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
<b>Factories</b> (Including Factory Laundries)	None existent.		
<b>Workshops</b> (Including Workshop Laundries)	21	None	None
<b>Workplaces</b> (Other than Outworkers)	—	—	—
Total.. . . .	21	0	0

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.  
No nuisances under the Public Health Acts or want of cleanliness found.

3.—Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108—none.

(Signature) **CECIL THOMAS,**

20th June, 1938.

**Medical Officer of Health.**

